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SECONDARY INVENTORY FILE

Rumania-Yugoslavia Boundary

There is no dispute between Rumania and Yugoslavia about the status of their common boundary. The boundary is the same as that which was established by several international agreements between 1920 and 1933 and which were valid until 1941, when Yugoslavia was defeated by the Axis Powers. In 1947 the Treaty of Paris reestablished the boundary as it was on January 1, 1941, and nullified changes made in the boundary during World War II.

For a few years after 1948, the year Yugoslavia was expelled from the Cominform, minor skirmishes occurred between Yugoslav and Rumanian border troops. In 1953 a border commission was set up to investigate border incidents, and by 1955 apparently all disputes had been settled. Also in 1955 a mixed border commission was established to repair or replace boundary markers along the pre-1941 line. The commission was charged with the responsibility of reexamining the border every 5 years, and making needed repairs. Meanders in the course of the Nera River -- part of which coincides with a segment of the Rumania-Bulgaria boundary -- in the past have necessitated periodic redemarcation of the boundary. In 1957, however, both nations agreed to establish the boundary as it existed on 1 January 1941 and to disregard any further alterations in the course of the river.

During the period between 1948 and 1951 Yugoslavia charged that Rumania mistreated the Serbian minority that occupies part of the border area west of Timisoara. Since 1951, however, no disputes have arisen over the status of this group. It is unlikely that the presence of this minority will be used as the basis for Yugoslav claims for Rumanian territory.

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